



The second ingredient is **SETTING**.

The setting is **WHERE** and **WHEN** the play takes place.

Your play could have a setting that is real, like a fourth grade classroom during an afternoon spelling test, or imaginary, like a far away land called Chocolateworld at midnight.

Use the boxes below to brainstorm real and imaginary settings for your play.

## REAL SETTINGS

## IMAGINARY SETTINGS

## DECIDE AND ADD DETAILS

Congratulations! You have brainstormed some really creative and exciting ideas for your first two ingredients.

Now it is time to decide which characters and setting you want to pick for your play.

Pick two characters from your brainstorm list and write them below. There is some space below their names for you to include some details about them. Ask yourself questions to come up with these details like:

How old is this character?

What do they look like?

What do they like to do?

Where do they live?

Start with just two characters. You can always add more later if you find your play needs it.

### CHARACTER #1

NAME:

DETAILS:

### CHARACTER #2

NAME:

DETAILS:

## DECIDE AND ADD DETAILS

Now it's time to decide on your setting. You can select one from your brainstorm list or if your characters inspire you to create somewhere brand new you can do that below.

Remember your setting must include WHERE AND WHEN.

There is space for you to include more details if you want. Try to imagine your setting and use your senses to describe it. What does your setting

Look like?

Smell like?

Sound like?

Feel like?

## SETTING

WHERE:

WHEN:

DETAILS:

## CONFLICT

Now that you have done the work on selecting your characters and setting and making them extremely detailed it's time to think about your third ingredient **CONFLICT**.

You can think about conflict as a BIG WANT of one or both of the characters in the play.

Think "**What does one or both of my characters want and what is in their way of getting it?**"

This will help you as you write your play to make sure your characters are working hard to get what they want. Write your CONFLICT or BIG WANT on the lines below .

## THE CONFLICT OR BIG WANT IN MY PLAY IS:

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# DIALOGUE

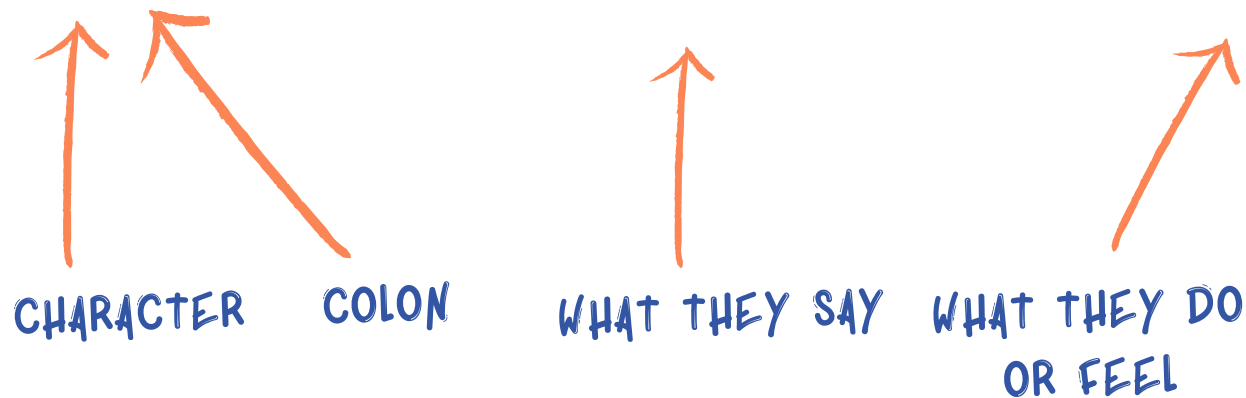
You are ready for the last ingredient, **DIALOGUE**. Dialogue is the words that the characters say.

When we write dialogue in a play it looks different than in a narrative or story. For dialogue in a play you write dialogue like this

**NAME: WORDS THEY SAY (WHAT THEY DO OR FEEL)**

Here is an example

Charlie: I wish I could run fast like the other cheetahs. (running and sad)



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

**WHO SPEAKS FIRST?**

**WHAT DO THEY SAY?**

**WHO SPEAKS OR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

Go ahead and start your dialogue on the next page. Remember to write it in the format we learned above. You can also title your play before you start dialogue or when you finish. It is up to you.

TITLE:

DIALOGUE:

KEEP WRITING! THERE ARE MORE PAGES FOR YOU TO WRITE ALL YOUR GREAT IDEAS!

A large blue-bordered box containing horizontal lines for writing. The box is empty and occupies most of the page.

WRITING TIP! IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE FIGURING OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT LOOK BACK AT YOUR CONFLICT AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOUR CHARACTER COULD SAY OR DO TO GET WHAT THEY WANT.



A large, empty, lined writing area with a blue border and horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, leaving a small margin at the top and bottom.

WRITING TIP! MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE THE CHARACTERS ACTIONS AND EMOTIONS IN PARENTHESIS. THIS HELPS THE ACTORS KNOW WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO AND FEEL.

A sheet of white paper with a thick blue border. The paper is ruled with horizontal black lines, creating a series of writing lines. The top-left corner of the paper is rounded. The rest of the page is blank.

WRITING TIP! DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR SPELLING AND GRAMMAR UNTIL AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR FIRST DRAFT. YOU CAN ALWAYS REVISE AND EDIT AFTER YOU GET YOUR GREAT IDEAS ON TO THE PAGE.

A large rectangular area with a thick blue border and horizontal blue lines, intended for writing a play script. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the page.

WRITING TIP! YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD ON THE BEGINNING AND MIDDLE OF YOUR PLAY. MAKE SURE TO HAVE AN ENDING. DO THE CHARACTERS SOLVE THE CONFLICT AND GET WHAT THEY WANT OR NOT? YOU DECIDE.

## TIPS FOR REVISING AND EDITING

Congratulations on finishing your first draft of your play! It is hard work to get your ideas out of your head and on to the page.

All plays start with a first draft just like yours! Now its time to revise and edit.

Go back and read your writing alone or with a partner. Ask yourself:

- Do you have all 4 ingredients? Character, Setting, Conflict, and Dialogue.
- Does your play have a beginning, middle, and end? Do you need to add more to any one part?
- How hard do your characters have to work to get THE BIG WANT or overcome the CONFLICT? It is always more interesting to watch a character try many different times and fail than for them to get it right away.
- Did your characters learn anything or change at all during the play?
- Is all of your dialogue written in the correct format? Do you want to include more actions or feelings in parenthesis?
- Are words spelled correctly? Are you using punctuation at the end of your sentences?

All done? Fill out submission sheet found on our website and mail your play to FLORIDA STUDIO THEATRE to be considered for our Young Playwrights Festival. Winners will have their plays performed by professional actors in Spring of 2021. All entries must be postmarked by February 15, 2021.